

1 PRICING METHOD AND PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR USAGE BASED
2 SERVICE

3 Abstract of the Disclosure

4 A method for determining a price for a usage based service session such
5 as an on-line network service or telephone service has general steps of dividing
6 a potential usage period into a plurality of tiers, and assigning an incremental
7 charge and a usage rate to the tier. Usage charges for each tier can be
8 determined by multiplying the usage rate for the tier by the amount of usage in
9 the tier. A total price for the session can then be calculated by totaling the
10 incremental charges for each tier entered during the session with the usage
11 charges for each tier. Tier usage rates and incremental charges may comprise
12 zero or negative numbers to provide flexibility in pricing a usage session.